MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • MAY 2001

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Pauline V. Walters

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Susan Cee Wineberg

VICE PRESIDENT
Virginia Hills

TREASURER
Patricia W. Creal

RECORDING SECRETARY
Judith Chrisman

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

DIRECTORS

Rosemarion Blake
Ann DeFreytas
Julie Creal Goodridge
Peggy Haines
Pamela Newhouse
Karen K. O'Neal
Peter Rocco
Karen Simpson
Jay Snyder
Patricia E. Thompson
Esther Warzynski

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Ralph P. Beebe
Tom Freeman
Scott Jacob

INFORMATION

Published Seven Times A Year
From September-May.
Susan Cee Wineberg, Editor
swines@umich.edu

Museum On Main Street
500 N. Main Street at Beakes Street
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106-3336

Phone: 734.662.9092
Fax 734.663.0039
Email: WCHS MoMS@aol.com

Web Site: www.hvcn.org/info/gswc/society/socwashtenaw.htm

BY LOUIS WM. DOLL

The House At 411 N. State

Photo: Susan Wineberg
411 N. State, once the home of playwright Arthur Miller.

Doll's family lived on North State in the 1920s-1950s. The famous playwright ***Arthur Miller*** *lived in this house in 1936-38 while a student at UM. In his book* ***Timebends****, Miller described the Dolls as "a family of giants, bending over to pass through the doorways of their tiny nineteenth-century Midwest house." Doll now lives in Bay City but keeps his avid interest in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County alive!*

My family bought the house at 411 N. State and we moved there from Chelsea on July 5, 1922. I was not quite eleven. This was one of the houses purchased in the 1870s by Miss **Ellen Morse** for students. It had crudely been made over into four two-room light housekeeping apartments. There were several rooms left for the use of the family. It is an example of the housing shortage and crowded conditions in Ann Arbor at that date, that these accommodations were eagerly sought at $10.00 a week, and there were no vacancies. There was a little stove for cooking and all occupants used the common icebox on the back porch. In the winter, the window box was used. There was only one complete bathroom on the second floor in the rear and a single toilet in a tiny closet under the front stairs.

I first met Miss Morse on an autumn day on the corner of Detroit and Kingsley Streets. She had just come from the farmer's market and had purchased a bushel of apples, which were drawn in a cart by a boy my own age The apple cart had overturned at **Diroff's** (now the site of Zingerman's) just as I came along and she asked my name and if I wouldn't help the Tice boy who was pulling the cart. I discovered that she lived across the street in a decrepit old house at 418 N. State. She fascinated me right from the start! I visited her often to hear her tell of Ann Arbor and its history. I learned about the houses she had owned and told the dates of construction. I was only a child and only remembered the date of our house since it was same year as my father's birth, 1877 [This is actually the date Miss Morse sold the house. It was probably built ca. 1860].

Not long after we moved in, we had three student rooms built in the large attic. In each room were two beds and we rented them for

Continued on page 4

May Program

Our May Program is our Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Potluck, to be held on Wednesday, May 16th at the Webster Church in Webster Township. Our speaker will be Willah Weddon, a former journalist and member of the Capitol Press Corps. Ms. Weddon has written about the First Ladies of Michigan and has published four books on the First Families of Michigan. She has won many awards for her publications. Please bring a dish to pass that will serve 8 people. We will supply plates and eating utensils of the plastic sort. If you want the good stuff, bring your own! Beverages will also be supplied.

DR. PATRICIA WHITESELL, DIRECTOR

A Tour Of The Detroit Observatory

On Sunday, April 22nd, Director and Curator ***Patricia ("Sandy") Whitesell,*** *assisted by Program Coordinator* ***Karen Woolams*** *and docents* ***John Dodds*** *and* ***Ed Krasny,*** *hosted a group of 35 people for a historical tour of the 1854 Detroit Observatory. In deference to Dr. Whitesell's request to respect Alice Ziegler, this talk was not tape-recorded. It was written up in the February 1999* ***Impressions*** *by Alice, and was one of the last pieces she wrote.*

Dr. Whitesell began by explaining how the Observatory developed over time, was expanded several times, and then threatened with demolition in 1976. Preservationists in Ann Arbor were able to save the original building but it languished for almost 20 years while an appropriate use for it could be found. It was at the urging of then UM President James Duderstadt and his wife Anne, that a request was made to Dr. Homer Neal who asked Sandy to write a proposal in 1993 to restore the Observatory as a museum. A private donor supplied the $1.4 million that was needed to restore the building, refurbish original furnishings or replace those that were missing, and restore the original instruments. Sandy oversaw the restoration and was named director in 1998. She has also published a book entitled ***A Creation of His Own: Tappan's Detroit Observatory*** (UM Press, 1998). Today, our Detroit Observatory is the oldest extant observatory in America to retain its original telescopes in working condition in their original mounts.

Photo by Susan Wineberg
Detroit Observatory-1854

Photo by Susan Wineberg
Henry Phillip Tappan, UM's first president and builder of the Observatory.

The Observatory is open to the public only 2 days a month during special open houses. These average about 15 visitors, who come to see the Observatory and also the Museum for the Study of 19th century Science and Technology. With the addition of a new award-winning website which is a virtual museum **(www.DetroitObservatory.umich.edu),** the museum is attracting more people all the time. What is still needed is $3 million for an endowment to keep the Observatory functioning and open more often.

Slides were shown covering the early Cropsey drawings done in the 1850s; President Tappan and his prominence in higher education and his creation of the research university based on the Prussian model; Henry Walker, Detroit railroad man, who (with others) bankrolled the project (hence the name Detroit Observatory); Walker's business interests which required accurate timekeeping; discussions of the various telescopes, clocks and their makers; portraits and biographies of Richard Harrison Bull, the architect, Franz Brunnow, the first Director of the Observatory, and JC Watson the next director; old photos of the many phases of the building(s); and various stages of the renovation work done by local preservation architects Quinn/Evans.

Some interesting facts about the Detroit Observatory are noted in their handout. It was the first observatory established in the state of Michigan and the second only to the Cincinnati Observatory (1843) in the Midwest. It is the second oldest extant building at the University of Michigan and the oldest building on campus in unaltered form. The first Director, Berliner Franz Brunnow, was the first faculty member to hold the Ph.D. It is the most important physical legacy of the University's early scientific preeminence and was the training ground for many

Photo by Susan Wineberg
"Sandy" Whitesell, Observatory Director, speaks about the restoration

Photo by Susan Wineberg
Board Member Carol Birch finds rotating the dome a snap.

prominent astronomers of the 19th century. In fact, it is here that 21 asteroids (minor planets) and two comets were discovered! The Observatory was also the home of the first scholarly journal published by the University (*Astronomical Notices* by Brunnow) and was the site where the longitude of Ann Arbor was first established in 1861. And, it is the repository of the oldest, large objective telescope lens made by Henry Fitz that has not been reground, as well as the home of the 1854 Pistor and Martins meridian circle telescope, the oldest intact instrument of its type in America.

The 1854 brick structure, built in the Greek Revival and Italianate styles, which was stuccoed and scored to resemble a stone Greek temple, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. It is one of the most perfectly preserved scientific buildings of its era.

The Observatory will be open **Wednesdays May 2**, 3-5 PM, **May 23,** 11 AM-2PM, and **June 13**, 3-5 PM. It will also be open **Tuesday June 26**, from 11 am-2 PM. It is closed in July and August. Call **(734) 763-2230** for more information.

House Update

Karen O'Neal is excited about the new outdoor lights recently installed along the fence on Main Street by **Teri Jefferson** and **Joe Majorana.** Come down and see for yourself. The house looks especially good at night when the lights are on.

Work is also proceeding on repairing our fence, getting new signs, and installing a French drain to take care of the perennial drainage problem. We also had to have a new sump pump installed when the electricians noticed the old one was smoking! Never a dull moment at MoMS!

Pat Thompson, our avid gardener, has been busy planting pansies around the trees in the extension. She recently won a grant of **$150** from the **Master Gardner Alumni Association.** It will be used to purchase historic looking plant ID tags. Pat hopes that our members will be able to donate 3 fern stands and some blue and white jardinieres (for 10" wide and 14" wide plants) to use for the houseplants. They look so much better in a proper container..

Photo by Susan Wineberg
New lights shine brightly at the Museum's entrance.

Historic Travel Has A Web Site

Looking for tips to guide you to historic places worldwide? Look no more. David Keene, an anthropologist and historic preservationist for 20 years, is president of **travelthepast.com**. With this website, you can search a database by theme, time period, and state. Tourists can read briefings on hundreds of historic places, including directions, fees and phone numbers. The site includes an affiliate section, bed and breakfasts, and lists of endangered landmarks. Later this year, the site will introduce a mapping and trip-planner section. They hope to encourage heritage tourism and stimulate local communities to preserve the treasures they have around them. Check it out!

We Are Winners!

On April 27th, the **Michigan Historic Preservation Network** presented the **WCHS** with a **2001 Community Award.** These awards are given at the Annual Meeting of the Network, which was held in Detroit. They recognize outstanding rehabilitation projects that have made a significant contribution to the preservation of Michigan's heritage. We are to be congratulated!

The award is the result of a nomination made by former board member **Caroline Mohai**. Immediate Past President (and your editor) **Susan Wineberg** will be accepted the award on behalf of the society. This award recognizes our nine years of hard work in moving and restoring the Kellogg-Warden House as a local historical museum.

The House At 411 N. State

Continued from page 1.

$2.50 a week. My oldest brother Jim lived in the one on the south side. Arthur Miller, the now famous American playwright, lived with a roommate on the north side. How long this house remained in Miss Morse's possession I do not know. In 1877, she sold it to **Ambrose Kearney** and family. He was one of the most prosperous grocery merchants in Ann Arbor. He made the house over into a very magnificent Victorian home, vestiges of which were still apparent in 1922. He lived in the house until 1892 and died around 1908. [Editor's note: The Kearneys also lived around the corner at 601 Lawrence and the yards of these two properties intersect].

In the backyard there was a two-car garage, which was converted from a somewhat decrepit stable [it is still standing]. This had apparently been built when Mr. Kearney bought the house. The northern half stabled the horses while the southern half had the carriage. In this section was a stairway leading to the hayloft. On the wall beside the stairway was a name written in block letters about one in high: *Clinton Ambrose Devies Firestone.*

I learned then that a member of the Kearney family, probably Ambrose's daughter, had married a Firestone. As there were many Firestones who attended the University of Michigan, this must be how the romance developed. Clinton was apparently a younger visitor who was experimenting with a birthday or Christmas present. After the horses were gone, the hayloft was used for storage, and at one time by brother Jim, in play production, had over 700 costumes stored there on racks. My other brothers used it for rainy day play.

The rental business held up until 1930, and by then the Crash (Depression) was felt everywhere. Not a single apartment or student room was rented. In 1936, economic conditions improved so that we could afford to live more comfortably. We moved the flimsy partition in the back parlor and laid new hardwood floors in both parlors. A visitor who came along at that time told us that the Kearney family was laying hardwood floors in the downstairs rooms but stopped with the two parlors when Mr. Kearney became ill. They placed his bed in the back parlor where he died. They did not want to disturb him by laying the floor.

By 1940 we were arranging the other apartments by adding better toilet and kitchen facilities and then the war came and put an end to everything. I left for service in 1942. After I completed a course in Japanese, I signed up to join the Occupation of Japan. There I met three men who had boarded in our house as students in the 1930s! My brother and I had corresponded with them, but it had ended in 1937. All had secondary but important positions in Japan during the war. I have written a book on my experiences in Japan, but it has not yet been published.

In 1944 my mother died and in 1948 father remarried. His new wife thought they ought to have more income from that big house so she embarked on an expensive project creating as much as the house as she could into rental space, in the process coming into constant conflict with the Ann Arbor building code.

There was one telephone for the whole house. It was located on a shelf in the first floor hall. It was the stand-up type ("candlestick") and you had to call the operator to place a call. Our number was 4742 before the dial system was introduced.

It should be noted that the house at 403 N. State was the original location of the Anna Botsford Bach Old Ladies Home. The big house to the north was the first St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, given to the Sisters (Nuns) by Miss Morse, and used by the Anna Botsford Bach organization after the new hospital was built.

During the 20 years it was my home, a procession of tenants representing Ann Arbor society came through. Of course the most famous was Arthur Miller from 1936-1938. One student became a professor at Michigan State University. Another became a Professor of Mathematics at one of the larger universities. Others graduated in music, forestry, teaching and many other fields of academe. Because of the hospitals, every kind of medical technician lived there. There were also day laborers and members of the great unwashed, who had to be instructed on how to wash the ring out of the tub after a bath. There were Army officers, plumbers, a few elderly single women, gamblers, superstitious people, petty crooks, one attempted suicide and one set of shoplifters. There were two young couples who lived in the downstairs apartment and the front one upstairs. The husbands had good jobs. One day the sheriff knocked on the door with a search warrant for their apartments. My surprised mother got they keys and let the sheriff in. Inventory disclosed that in each apartment were shoplifted goods to the value of $3,000 consisting of numerous bolts of cloth and women and children's clothing of every kind!

How To Join

Send name, address and phone number with check payable to WCHS to: Treasurer, WCHS, P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336. Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100. For information call (734) 662-9092 or e-mail us at WCHS MoMS@aol.com.

Around The Town

Cobblestone Farm is asking for volunteers for a **new Historic District Study Committee.** In 1982, a group of volunteers produced "*Preservation for Cobblestone Farm: Report of the Cobblestone Farm Historic District Study Committee.*" It is time to revise this Master Plan. The Cobblestone Farm Association would like to start by late summer or early fall. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call **George Taylor at 734-434-4753** or e-mail him at **gtaylor10@mediaone.net.**

Around The Area

Detroit is 300 years old this summer and many celebrations are planned. Look for the **Tall Ships** in July and many events at **Fort Wayne**. **Preservation Wayne** celebrates 300 years of Detroit every Saturday from **May 5th-October 27th** with walking tours of five historic districts. **Tours will be given of the Downtown, Eastern Market, Midtown, Auto Heritage (Model T Factory at Piquette) and New Center Areas.** Tickets are $15/person, with discounts for PW members and students. Tours are limited to 25 people. Call **313-577-3559** to make reservations or visit their website at **preservationwayne.org.**

Wayne State University's College of Urban Labor and Metro Affairs (CULMA) will explore the value of historic preservation through a series of lectures in May and June. The Van Dusen Urban Forum Lunch series will feature **Alexander Garvin** on Thursday, May 10th, **Donovan Rypkema** on **Thursday May 24th**, **Jane Brooks** on **Thursday May 31st**, and **Stanley Lowe** on **Thursday June 7th**. Call **313-577-5071**.

The Historic Indian Village 2001 Home and Garden Tour returns this year on **Saturday June 2nd from 9-5**. Ten elegant homes will be featured that date from 1895-1929 and were designed by such architects as Albert Kahn and Louis Kamper, with contributions by Pewabic Pottery and Jens Jensen. Tickets are $12 (advance) and $15. Call **313-924-3891** for information.

The 15th Annual Corktown Historic Home and Garden Tour will be held on **Sunday June 3rd**. It is a self-guided tour beginning at Holy Trinity Church at noon. It will be one of the largest ever held in this neighborhood. Tickets are $10 (advance) and $12.50. Call **313-962-5660.**

The **8th Annual Mount Clemens Historical Homes Tour** will be held on **Saturday June 16th** from 9:30-4PM. The $12 tickets are limited and are by advance sale only. Call **810-469-8666** to reserve your tickets.

The **Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm** presents Downtown Rochester **Walking Tours—Just for Ewe! The** tour will include seeing the display of decorated **fiberglass sheep.** Tours are from 7-8:30 PM on **Thursday June 14th** and **August 16th.** Tickets are $3. Call **248-608-8198** to make required reservations.

The **Troy Museum** continues its lecture series with **From Durant to Ford: Names and Faces in the Motor City** on Tuesday June 19th at 7:30 PM. Admission is free but donations are welcome. Call **248-524-3570** to make reservations.

Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance is scheduled for Sunday, **August 5th.** Seen as one of the world's most spectacular international celebrations of the automobile, it has attracted 20,000 people! There is a golf event, race and fashion show and art auction. Admission is $20 for adults and $10 for children. Call **248-370-3140** or visit their web page at **www.mbhconcours.org.**

Marshall, Michigan has already announced the date of its **38th Annual Historic Home Tour.** It will be **Saturday and Sunday September 8th and 9th** and will include 15 structures including eight private houses, dating from 1844-1920. Advance tickets may be purchased from the historical society by calling **616-781-5163.**

Tecumseh, in Lenawee County, presents its **26th Annual Home Tour and Promenade** Tecumseh on **Saturday and Sunday May 19th and 20th**. The tour will feature six houses and a designer house. Tickets are $10 (advance) and $12. Call **517-423-3740.** Tecumseh is also displaying a **Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit** entitled *"Yesterdays Tomorrows: Past Visions of an American Future."* You can take a virtual tour at **www.historictecumseh.com**. It is a fantastic website which I highly recommend.

Future Programs

Saturday • June 2nd 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Our **Annual Bus Tour** will visit **Cranbrook** including **Saarinen House** and the **Art Museum**. The cost will be **$60.00** and will cover the bus, the tour and a lunch. Reservations must be made by May 28th. Some walking will be required.

Sunday • September 16th 2:00 PM

Louisa Pieper has been busy! We are already confirmed for this date for a tour of the **Rentschler Farm in Saline. Wayne Clements** will be the speaker.

Louisa is planning future programs based on the theme "**Focus on the County**." We hope to go to the Hack House in Milan, The Dexter Train Museum, and the restored buildings in Webster Township. Louisa will report on this at the Annual Meeting.

Help Park Cars During Art Fair

TCF Bank is once again loaning us their parking lot during Art Fair so that we can raise money by parking cars after banking hours: 5:30 to 8:30 PM; Saturday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. **We need YOU** to help park cars **July 18-21**. Call Pauline at 734-662-9092 to sign up. Work with a buddy. You do not have to drive the cars, just collect the money as they pull into "our" lot!

Around The County

The historic **Hack House** in **Milan** has received a **$28,000 state grant** to pay for restoration of the main house, east porch, outhouse and summer kitchen. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) awarded the grant through the **Washtenaw County Historic District Commission.** The city of Milan will provide $19,000 matching funds. The house was built in the Queen Anne style in 1888 by Olive Friend and later purchased by William Hack, son of pioneer Bethuel Hack. The **Milan Area Historical Society** accepted the house as a donation in 1980 from Owens-Illinois Corporation and has maintained the house as a museum. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. Our Program Chair Louisa Pieper has arranged our October meeting at the Hack House in the fall of 2001.

Ypsilanti's Heritage Festival is ranked the second-best small festival in the state, according to the latest edition of ***Michigan Living*** published by AAA Michigan (Ann Arbor's Art Fairs is rated fourth!) So mark you calendars now for this year's festival, **Friday-Sunday, August 17-19th.**

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** has **Jasper Pennington** speaking on **Sunday May 20th** on "Researching Church Records." The class will discuss "There are no Dumb Questions." Lectures and classes are held at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Education Building, 5301 E. Huron River Drive. Use Parking Lot P. Call **734-482-2799 for** info.

We've written a lot about **Saline's** celebration of **Orange Risdon** and they responded in kind by giving us two free tickets to the Founders Week Dinner at Weller's held April 25th. I attended with Collections Chair Judy Chrisman. Before we ate our wonderful dinner, proclamations were read to the over 100 guests by **Mayor Gretchen Driskell,** and by a representative from **Governor Engler** and **State Rep. Gene DeRossett.** The highlight of the evening, however, was the unveiling of a plaster bust of Risdon, done by Saline native and now well-known artist **Elizabeth Rogers.** The bust was commissioned in honor of **Ken Rogers, Sr.,** her father. Speakers after dinner included **Rochelle Balkam** of the EMU History Department, **Dr. Justin Krasnoff** from the Michigan Map Society, **Gladys Saborio** of the US-12 Heritage Route Committee, and **William Stark, Jr.** Executive Director of the Michigan Museum of Surveying. Then we ate cakes with pictures of Orange Risdon and his 1825 Survey Map of SE Michigan. Saline really knows how to throw a good party!

Sculptor Elizabeth Rogers unveils her bust of Orange Risdon while her mother Alberta looks on.

We'd like to remind you that Saline's **Rentschler Farm Museum** will re-open **Saturday May 19th** from 11-3 PM. Baby animals and farm photos, storytelling, food, crafts music, and much more will be the order of the day. New areas of the house have been restored including the porch, the parlor, the hired man's room and the workshop. Bedrooms upstairs will also be open for the first time. It's all free so spend a lovely day in Saline. The farm will remain open Saturdays until October 6th and is located at 1265 E. Michigan Ave (US-12). Call **734-944-0442** or **734-769-2219.**

More Exhibits Are Planned

Our Exhibits Coordinator **Scott Jacob** is already hard at work on our next exhibit. Entitled "Delivery Days," it is about an era we all fondly remember. This is when many products and services were delivered to ours doors, including butter eggs and milk, laundry, groceries, and department store purchases. We would like to have the entire county represented and are asking you to **help us.** We need photos of delivery trucks, wagons, people and businesses as well as advertisements, bottles, boxes or crates. We could also use uniforms, delivery schedules and actual vehicles if possible! Special provisions will be made for vehicles loaned to us. Feel free to offer anything you think we can use. We feel it is important to the success of our exhibit that all communities in Washtenaw County are represented. This exhibit will be up from late June to mid-October. If you have anything to contribute, please contact President Pauline Walters at (734) 662-9092.

Still More On John Geddes

Denise Frederick, the Washtenaw County **GenWeb** webmaster who published John Geddes' diary on the Internet, came to visit Ann Arbor in early April. She was feted by **Connie Dunlap** (thank you Connie!) at a lovely dinner party attended by Russell Bidlack, myself and WCHS officers, and for lunch by the board of the Washtenaw County Historical Society. A good time was had by all. The **biggest mystery** of all, however, was **NOT solved**. No one knows where the original diary of John Geddes resides. We only have a copy which Denise received from Timothy Kreh of Washington DC by e-mail in April of 2000.

Denise is a native of Ann Arbor and has ancestors from Dexter, but she now resides in Petoskey where she is the advertising representative for four local newspapers. She has a husband and two kids and a full-time job, yet still feeds her passion for genealogy by volunteering to adopt a county for GenWeb. She proves the adage that if you want something done, give it to a busy person!

Photo by Susan Wineberg
Denise Frederick and Pauline Walters smile about John Geddes.

PRESIDENT PAULINE WALTERS ASKS

"Do You Have A Few Hours To Spare?"

Drop by the Museum and **LET'S TALK** or call 662-9092

The Society, now that the Museum on Main Street is "up and running" needs volunteers to help us run more smoothly. We are seeking persons with varied talents and skills for some occasional and some on-going tasks. They are:

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: during the membership drive month would take three or four hours for a couple of weeks and a few hours during the mailing week the rest of the months.

FUNDRAISING CHAIR: during the membership drive, in mid-summer, organize the lists and direct the mailing of letters and the fundraising token.

MAINTENANCE CHAIR: develop a team to do minor repairs, minor painting and general maintenance.

OFFICE ORGANIZER: someone that likes and is good at sorting out the volume of paper and items that are accumulating. After the initial "shake down" of decision-making it could be a couple of hours weekly task.

EXHIBIT PREPARATION HELPERS: in June the new exhibit, Delivery Days, will be gathered and made ready for exhibition. Scott and Judy would welcome willing hands to help mount the exhibit.

Board Member Resigns

Board Member **Nancy Bryk,** Curator at the Henry Ford Museum, has resigned. She has an extremely demanding schedule and can rarely make meetings. She has offered us her consulting talents, which we hope to put to good use in the future since she is an expert on Mission Statements. We are sorry to lose Nancy and thank her for all the hard work she has done on behalf of the society for the last four years. We are especially grateful for her help with the opening of MOMS, with the Pancake Supper and for recently writing a grant proposal for us. Thanks Nancy. We will miss you!

June Trip To Cranbrook

Our Annual June Trip will be **Saturday June 2nd** and we will be taking a busload of 47 people to **Cranbrook** for the day. The cost of the trip is **$60** which includes a box lunch of ham, turkey or chicken salad on a croissant with pasta salad, apple, chips, chocolate chip cookies plus choice of soda or bottled water. The library meeting room at the Museum will house us for the lunch. The trip includesa visit to the Art Museum and Saarinen House, as well as the grounds withsculptures by Carl Milles. This is a rare opportunity to view this National Historic Landmark in Bloomfield Hills designed by Albert Kahn and Eliel Saarinen, featuring Pewabic Pottery and much more. We will meet at the parking lot of Arborland at 8:30 AM and return at 5 PM. **Please call (734) 662-9092 to reserve a spot on the bus. Reservations are required! Checks are due by May 28th.**

Recent Donations

Collections Chair **Judy Chrisman** reports the receipt of a **black (!) wedding dress** from **1841**. It was worn by **Pamela Stencil** at the age of 19 and comes with her marriage certificate to **George Keal**. **Phebe Judson**, a relative of the **Ruthruff** family that lived in our building in the 1850s, donated the dress! Judy says that black dresses were not unusual in that time period. We now have almost a dozen wedding dresses. Sounds like a future exhibit to me!

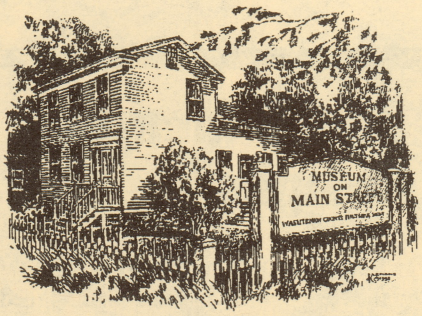
Back Issues Of Impressions Needed

We have had a request from the **Allen County Public Library** for **back issues** of our newsletter ***Washtenaw Impressions.*** If anyone has issues **prior to 1984** please contact President Pauline Walters at (734) 662-9092. Allen County is on the Internet and would be an excellent repository for any of our back issues.

Business Support

This month's issue of *Impressions* is co-sponsored by

CHARLES & IRENE HURBIS



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

SPEAKER WILLAH WEDDON

WEDNESDAY • 6 PM MAY 18, 2001

WEBSTER CHURCH WEBSTER TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 96

MEMBER 2001
NANCY KROHN
905 ROBIN RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48103-3008